

WORLD POPULATION EMERGENCY CAMPAIGN

Planned Parenthood Federation of America

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*In full sympathy with your
purposes and recognizing importance
your immediate plans, but
regret no.*

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Stanford University
Palo Alto, California

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

Publication in the July 23rd issue of NEWSWEEK Magazine of the enclosed six-page cover article on the "World Population Crisis" adds further evidence of mounting concern among the leaders of the American press and public. The article makes clear the menace to our civilization of the accelerating tide of human births worldwide. It makes equally clear how confused, chaotic and often illusory are some of the measures proposed - yet rarely carried through - to meet this impending calamity.

The question is specifically posed: "What is being done about this imminent catastrophe?" Anyone familiar with the work in this field is aware that nothing commensurate with the immensity of this crisis is being attempted. Yet all informed people know that much may be done - even enough - if a timely mobilization of brains and money is achieved. This is a task that cannot wait. We have the obligation to persevere, to raise the alarm and to work with all our strength to meet this mounting crisis before it is too late.

In considering what to do my colleagues and I have decided, as the first step in our Fall program, to call a Conference of business and philanthropic leaders to discuss the crisis and to consider appropriate action. What is needed is a movement within our society much more broadly based than that at present. We need new and expanded leadership if we are to have an impact on our countrymen and influence with our government. Our hope for the Conference is that it will result in a great demand for effective action voiced by this largely new and expanded leadership.

During the past two years, activities of the World Population Emergency Campaign, now joined with the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, have resulted in the enrollment of hundreds of leading businessmen from throughout the country as supporters of this work. We need thousands more. To a large degree, this crisis is an inevitable by-product of the beneficent public health programs carried on

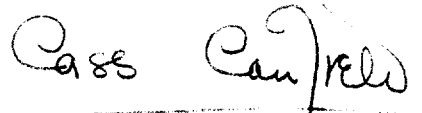
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worldwide by the great foundations. Yet the foundation community is far behind in their response, to a great extent because of the problem of involvement in a religious-doctrinal dispute. Their leadership must be enlisted. These are among the most influential elements in our society. We vitally need their active participation.

Accordingly, we propose that leaders in business and philanthropy be called together with distinguished scientists for an all-day Conference on Monday, October 22, 1962, at the Hotel Plaza in New York City. It will consist of public sessions in the morning and afternoon and a public luncheon. In addition, we will hold a private dinner session that evening with guests drawn from among the most important leaders attending the Conference. Our program will deal with "The Economic Consequences of the Population Explosion," both in the United States and internationally. To clarify the issue, we are inviting as speakers some of the most knowledgeable leaders in the field from throughout the world.

We need your leadership and that of other concerned Americans who have understanding of the issue and have given time and thought to this problem during the past several years. I am inviting you to join me as one of a group of Convenors of the October 22nd Conference. This letter goes to you and to other leading Americans with a fervent plea for your partnership in this enterprise. Will you let me know that I can count on your participation.

Sincerely,


Cass Canfield, Chairman

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